

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/448,940

Examiner

ANH H. DO

Applicant(s)

BARNES ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief on 11/14/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 2/1/06
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

ANH HONG DO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patrick S. Yoda on 2/1/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 18, line 4, after "of" insert --uncompressed-- and before "to lossless" insert --representative of individual picture elements--.

Claim 24:

Line 1, after "computer", insert --readable medium storing a computer--

Delete entire line 3;

Line 6, before "the", insert --uncompressed image data representative of individual picture elements in--.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Appeal Brief (see Sections B and C, pages 8-13) filed 11/14/2005, with respect to claims 1-27 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-27 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-27 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
- * The Appeal Conference conducted on 2/1/2006 found the allowability of some claims and suggested to resolve the remaining problem with other claims;
 - * A telephone interview conducted in the same day to get an authorization from the Applicant's Representative to amend claims 18 and 24 in order to place the application in allowance condition;
 - * The above Examiner's Amendment to claims 18 and 24 makes these claims allowable and overcome possible problem with 101 issues;
 - * The present invention provides a new method, system, and computer readable medium for compressing image data, which obtains higher relative compression ratios in a computationally efficient manner (see specification, page 2, line 20-24).

Particularly, the new method, system, and computer readable medium comprise the following features, which the prior art taken either singly or in combination does not teach:

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- compiling and storing a plurality of compression mapping tables for converting uncompressed data representative of individual picture elements to lossless compressed data (see independent claim 1);

- defining a family of compression code tables for converting uncompressed image data to lossless compressed data; storing the compression code tables in an image data compression station and in an image data decompression (see independent claim 12);

- a data compression station configured to store a plurality of compression code tables for conversion of uncompressed image data representative of individual picture elements to lossless compressed image data and to execute a compression routine in which an image data stream is converted to a compression file by dividing into subregions and each subregion compressing in accordance with a compression code table selected from the plurality of compression code tables based upon which compression code table provides optimal lossless compression of the subregions (see independent claim 18);

- configuration code and a plurality of compression code tables stored on the machine readable medium, the configuration code including an algorithm for analyzing an image data stream, for compressing subregions of uncompressed image data representative of individual picture elements in the image data stream by application of a plurality of compression code tables, and for compiling the compressed subregions into a lossless compressed data file (see independent claim 24).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANH H. DO whose telephone number is 571-272-7433. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID K. MOORE can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

February 1, 2006



**ANH HONG DO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**